




MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: April 6, 2005

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution approving the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Public Safety implementation program.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution approving the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Public Safety implementation program.

Background: The Mulholland Scenic Parkway has been patrolled by MRCA Park Rangers for over fifteen years. The MRCA has developed fifteen scenic overlooks within the Parkway, and has been responsible for the public safety for these overlooks until recently by contract, and now by order of the City of Los Angeles. These scenic overlooks have been constructed along the public right of way on Mulholland Drive, within the 100 to 200 foot roadway owned by the City. The most recent L.A. City Council motion states, in part, "Improvements at each location will include a secured trash can, a rules sign, fencing, traffic control signage, and where possible, interpretive kiosks. The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority will be responsible for all costs of construction, ongoing maintenance, and public safety at all new locations."

Excessive speed along the Parkway is a public safety problem directly affecting the safety at the overlooks. Speeding cars endanger visitors when entering, exiting and while enjoying the scenic overlook. Each year several vehicles go over the side of Mulholland Drive, many times at our scenic overlook locations. The City of Los Angeles has determined the safe speed limit for the Parkway. A radar speed survey has been conducted by the City, thereby permitting radar enforcement by all Law Enforcement personnel.

MRCA Park Rangers are therefore permitted to enforce park rules, including traffic violations, at right of way locations enhanced by a scenic overlook, to a greater extent than would be otherwise permitted. The MRCA Ordinance may be used as an enforcement tool for traffic violations along the Mulholland Scenic Parkway only under the following conditions:

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The violation must occur at that section of road right of way enhanced by a scenic overlook managed and patrolled by the MRCA. In addition, we are now specifically required to erect traffic control signs and provide for public safety at 8601,8591,13201, 13801,14801,14528,16500,17000 and 20400 Mulholland at no cost to the City.

The MRCA Ordinance section may not conflict with the applicable California Vehicle Code section which would otherwise apply.